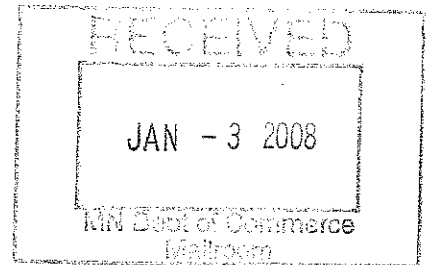


Cody Ekholm
16413 County Road 8
Nashwauk, MN 55769
(218)-885-2734
December 17, 2007



Bill Storm
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East
Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101

Dear Bill Storm:

I am a student at Itasca Community College studying environmental science. I live by Nashwauk, and I would be affected by this plant if it goes in. Hopefully I can give you some valuable insight to the people who are deciding if they should go ahead for this project.

I am for this project because it will help boost the local economy significantly. It will open up many jobs in an area that is slowly dieing. It will also help with the steadily rising pit by Bovey. I also know of the environmental concerns with this plant. Excelsior Energy estimates that 90% of the Mercury will be removed prior to discharging the waste, but it will also most likely contain amounts of selenium, cyanide, and arsenic. They could pollute many lakes and rivers in this area.

Overall, I am still for this plant though. I just think there should be tougher penalties for breaking the permit violations on the discharged waste. This could help keep the levels of pollutants down significantly.

Sincerely,

Cody Ekholm